

International Application Number: PCT/US 98/03433

International Filing Date: 3 November 1998 (03.11.98)

Priority Date: 08/988,300 10 December 1997 (10.12.97) US

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(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, Euro, patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

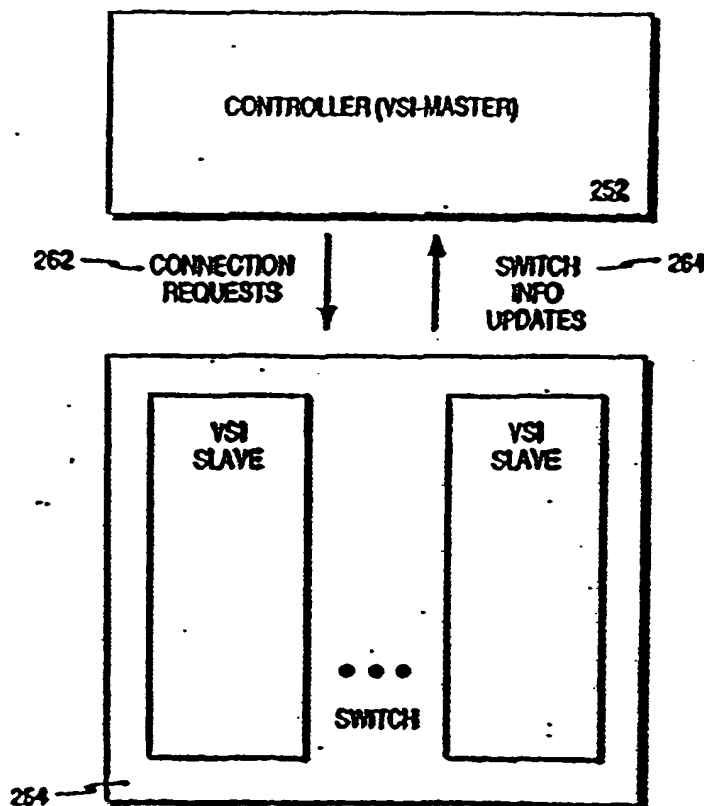
Published

With international search report.

Title: A CONNECTION CONTROL INTERFACE FOR MULTISERVICE SWITCHES

Abstract

A connection control interface for a network is provided. The connection control interface allows the multiservice switch to provide a number of independent resource partitions to a number of independent controllers coupled to the switch. Each resource partition comprises a set of subsets of switch resources that is a number of independent subset sets of a physical network. The connection control interface allows the independent controllers to control the connections on the switch using the number of switch resource partitions. The independent controllers each use one of a number of control systems, the control systems comprising a network software level. The independent controllers comprise a virtual switch interface having a master component and a slave component where the master and slave components may be hosted on different processors. The slave components may be hosted on a control card that contains a number of port cards of the switch and a port card processor. The switch and the independent controllers are resynchronized when discrepancies are detected between the connections on the switch and expected by the each of the plurality of independent controllers.



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